UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1991/11
25 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-fifth session
Vienna, 27 February-8 March 1991
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women**

Report of the Secretary-General

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*E/CN.6/1991/1.

**This document has not been edited.

V.91-21905 7438T

INTRODUCTION

1. The attached material on implementation of the Forward- Looking .Strategies consists of indicators and conclusions extracted from the publication The World's Women 1970-1990: Trends and Statistics, -to be issued in June 1991 as a United Nations publication (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.K/8). This publication has been prepared by the Statistical Office, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat as a general presentation and analysis for non-specialists of available statistics.cs and indicators on the situation of women in the period 1970-1990. It has been prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the Division for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women. The publication draws extensively on the United Nations Women's Indicators and Statistics Microcomputer Database (Wistat) of the Statistical Office. In addition to statistics of the Statistical Office and Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, Wistat includes comprehensive statistics provided by the International Labour Office, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization.

I. WOMEN, FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

2. Major changes in households and family life over the past 20 years in many parts of the world have given women greater opportunities but made their struggle to balance family, household and economic responsibilities more complex and often more difficult.

3. Marriage patterns differ for men and women -- with women marrying at an earlier age since their life expectancy is longer, surviving their husbands in most regions by about 10 years. Women are less likely to remarry after divorce than men and are more likely to widowed.

4. Across all regions, fewer women marry today than in 1970, and those who do spend less of their lives married and fewer years having children.

5. More women today live alone or as heads of households because of changing patterns of marriage and divorce, male migration, wars and longer life expectancy than men. Globally about 30 per cent of all women heading households are elderly (aged 60 or older).

Table 1.1 More than three-quarters of the world's women live in the developing regions (% distribution of the world's women in 1990)

Developed regions	23.6
Africa	
Northern Africa	2.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	9.7
Latin America and Caribbean	8.5
Asia and Pacific	
Eastern Asia	22.4
South-eastern Asia	8.4
Southern Asia	22.2
Western Asia	2.4
Oceania	0.1

For a listing of countries and areas included in each region, see annex III.

Source: Global Estimates and Projections of Population by Sex and Age: The 1988 Revision (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.R/93).

Table 1.2. Women now outlive men almost everywhere, but they are still in the minority in many developing regions because of higher female mortality in the past

	Women per 100 men, 1990
Developed regions	106
Africa	
Northern Africa	98
Sub-Saharan Africa	102
Latin America and Caribbean	100
Asia and Pacific	
Eastern Asia	95
South-eastern Asia	101
Southern Asia	94
Western Asia	94

Based on the total population of each sex in each region.

Source: Global Estimates and Projections of Population by Sex and Age: The 1988 Revision (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.R/93).

Table 1.3 Where girls under age 15 make up 45 per cent or more of the female population (% of females under age 15)

Africa
- Northern Africa
  - Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (47)
  - Sudan (45)
- Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Benin (47)
  - Botswana (47)
  - Burundi (45)
  - Comoros (46)
  - Côte d'Ivoire (50)
  - Djibouti (46)
  - Ethiopia (45)
  - Ghana (45)
  - Kenya (52)
  - Liberia (46)
  - Madagascar (45)
  - Malawi (45)
  - Mali (45)
  - Namibia (45)
  - Niger (47)
  - Nigeria (48)
  - Rwanda (49)
  - Somalia (46)
  - Swaziland (47)
  - Togo (45)
  - Uganda (48)
  - United Rep. Tanzania (48)
  - Zaire (45)
  - Zambia (48)

Latin America and Caribbean
- Guatemala (45)
- Nicaragua (45)

Asia and Pacific
- Southern Asia
  - Pakistan (46)
- Western Asia
  - Iraq (46)
  - Jordan (48)
  - Kuwait (45)
  - Oman (47)
  - Qatar (46)
  - Saudi Arabia (49)
  - Syrian Arab Republic (48)
  - United Arab Emirates (46)
  - Yemen (45)

Oceania
- Vanuatu (46)

Source: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat.

Table 1.4 There are more elderly women than men almost everywhere

	Women per 100 men in the population aged 60 and over 1990
Developed regions	
Australia, Japan, New Zealand	133
Northern America	137
Europe	144
USSR	211
Africa	
Northern Africa	114
Sub-Saharan Africa	117
Latin America and Caribbean	116
Asia and Pacific	
Eastern Asia	111
South-eastern Asia	117
Southern Asia	99
Western Asia	108
Oceania	98

Based on the total population of each sex aged 60 years and above in each region.

Source: Global Estimates and Projections of Population by Sex and Age: The 1988 Revision (United Nations publication, ST/ESA/SER.R/93).

Table 1.5 Where average age at first marriage for women is still below 20 years (average age at first marriage in years)

Africa
- Benin (18.2)
- Burkina Faso (17.4)
- Cameroon (17.5)
- Comoros (19.5)
- Côte d'Ivoire (17.8)
- Ethiopia (17.7)
- Ghana (19.3)
- Lesotho (19.6)
- Malawi (17.8)
- Mali (18.1)
- Mauritania (19.2)
- Mozambique (17.6)
- Nigeria (18.7)
- Senegal (17.7)
- Zambia (19.4)

Latin America and Caribbean
- Cuba (19.9)

Asia
- Afghanistan (17.8)
- Bangladesh (16.7)
- India (18.7)
- Iran (Islamic Rep. of)(19.7)
- Nepal (17.9)
- Pakistan (19.8)
- United Arab Emirates (18.0)
- Yemen (17.8)

Data refer mainly to early 1980s.
Sources: Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat and World Fertility Survey.

Table 1.6 The proportion of births to unmarried women is rising rapidly in many countries and regions

	% of births to unmarried women	
	1970	1985
Developed regions		
Australia	8	16
Austria	13	22
Bulgaria	9	11
Denmark	11	43
Finland	6	16
Germany		
Former German Democratic Republic	13	34
France	7	20
New Zealand	13	25
Norway	7	26
Portugal	7	12
Sweden	18	46
United Kingdom	8	19
United States	10	21
Africa		
Mauritius	3	26
Reunion	24	44
Seychelles	45	70
Latin America and Caribbean		
Argentina	26	33
Bahamas	29	62
Belize	44	54
Chile	20	32
Costa Rica	29	37
French Guiana	63	76
Guadeloupe	43	57
Martinique	51	64
Puerto Rico	19	27
Asia and Pacific		
Guam	9	30
Hong Kong	3	6
Philippines	3	6

Years are approximate.

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from Demographic Yearbook 1975 and 1986 (United Nations publications, Sales Nos. E/F.76.XIII.1 and E/F.87.XIII.1).

Table 1.7 Up to 30 per cent of households are now headed by women. Nearly half of women heading households in developed regions and at least a quarter in other regions are elderly

	% households headed by women	% women household heads aged 60 and over
Developed regions	24	48
Africa	21	26
Latin America and Caribbean	29	32
Asia and Pacific	14	29

Data mainly refer to early 1980s.
Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from the United Nations Women's Statistics and Indicators Data Base (Wistat) and the Demographic Yearbook 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E/F.88.XIII.1).

II. PUBLIC LIFE AND LEADERSHIP

6. Some of the disparities between women and men in public life and leadership have narrowed but wide gaps remain. Women still play a very minor role in high-level political and economic decision making in most countries.

7. Women almost everywhere have the right to vote, they make up more than half of most electorates and many more women work in the public sector than ever before. Yet women rarely achieve elective office or have equal access to political careers. They are blocked from top positions in trade unions, political parties, government, interest associations and business.

8. Women have long been leaders in the community and at the grassroots - and they are strong advocates for environmental protection and for peace.

Table 2.1 Where women have achieved at least 10 per cent of ministerial-level positions (% ministerial-level positions held by women, 1987/88)

Developed regions
- Austria (11)
- Canada (13)
- Denmark (14)
- Finland (12)
- Germany:
- Federal Republic of Germany (10)
- former German Democratic Republic (10)
- Norway (37)
- Romania (12)
- Sweden (17)
- Switzerland (11)

Africa
- Burkina Faso (12)
- Burundi (10)
- Senegal (13)
- Tanzania (16)

Latin America and Caribbean
- Dominica (22)
- Guatemala (12)
- Uruguay (13)

Asia and Pacific
- Bhutan (25)
- Philippines (11)

Source: Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat and United States National Standards Association.

Table 2.2 In nearly 100 countries, women held no positions at ministerial level in 1987/88

Developed regions
- Belgium
- Czechoslovakia
- France
- Japan
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Spain
- USSR
- Yugoslavia

Africa
- 31 countries

Latin America and Caribbean
- 24 countries

Asia and Pacific
- 30 countries

Source: Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, and United States National Standards Association.

Table 2.3 Women's parliamentary representation, though improved, is still very low in most regions

	Average % women in parliamentary assemblies*	
	1975	1987
Developed regions		
Eastern Europe and USSR	25.2	27.7
Other developed regions	7.4	13.5
Africa		
Northern Africa	1.5	2.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	4.4	7.8
Latin America and Caribbean	4.9	7.7
Asia and Pacific		
Eastern and south-eastern Asia	9.5	12.5
Southern Asia	4.4	5.7
Western Asia	1.9	4.5
Oceania	..	0.9

* Unicameral assembly or lower chamber of bicameral assembly.

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from Inter-parliamentary Union, "Distribution of seats between men and women in national assemblies", Reports and Documents, No. 14 (Geneva, 1987).

Table 2.4 Women's parliamentary representation is now rapidly falling in eastern Europe and USSR

	% women in parliament	
	1987	1990
Bulgaria	21	9
Czechoslovakia	30	6
Germany		
Former German Dem. Rep.	32	21
Hungary	21	7
Poland		
Senate	..	6
Lower House	20	4
Romania	34	4
USSR		
Congress of Peoples' Deputies	..	16
Soviet of Nationalities	31	14
Supreme Soviet	35	14

Source: Compiled by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, United Nations Office at Vienna, from national reports to the United Nations.

Table 2.5 Women's overall representation as managers in the public and private sectors is rising in all regions

	% administrative and managerial workers who are women	
	1970	1980/88
Developed regions	11	18
Africa	6	13
Latin America and Caribbean	14	20
Asia and Pacific	6	10

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from International Labour Office, Year Book of Labour Statistics (Geneva, various years).

III. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

9. In much of the world, women have progressed towards equal educational enrolment rates with men at all levels of schooling, but huge gaps persist between men's and women's educational achievement. And many girls and women still do not receive equal access to educational and training resources.

10. Despite broad progress towards literacy, a crucial determinant of women's productive and reproductive roles, a huge historical literacy deficit remains among today's adult women, especially rural women. In 1985 there were 597 million illiterate women and 352 million illiterate men. This deficit will persist well into the next century in all the developing regions.

11. Girls are achieving universal primary education -- accepted as a fundamental goal by all countries -- in most countries of Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean but not in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

12. For mass secondary education, there has been substantial progress for both boys and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean, little for girls in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia, and only moderate progress in the other regions.

13. In advanced training, there has been good progress in many fields traditionally dominated by men in developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean and some of Asia -- while progress has been more limited in Africa and southern Asia.

Table 3.1 Illiteracy rates are falling for young women but are still much higher for young women than men

Over 40 per cent of young women are still illiterate in Africa and southern and western Asia

	% illiterate, women aged 20-24	
	1970	1990
Developing regions		
Latin America and Caribbean	19.4	8.0
Sub-Saharan Africa [a]	80.3	49.2
Northern Africa and western Asia [b]	78.5	43.1
Eastern and South-eastern Asia	37.9	12.2
Southern Asia	76.2	55.3

The widest gaps between women and men are in Africa and western Asia

	% illiterate, aged 20-24, 1990	
	Women	Men
Developing regions		
Latin America and Caribbean	8.0	7.3
Sub-Saharan Africa [a]	49.2	31.3
Northern Africa and western Asia [b]	43.1	23.3
Eastern and south-eastern Asia	12.2	5.1
Southern Asia	55.3	30.4

Based on total population of women and men aged 20-24 years in each region.
Source: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Compendium of Statistics on Illiteracy - 1990 edition, No. 31 (Paris, 1990).

a Includes Sudan; excludes South Africa.
b Includes Somalia and Mauritania; excludes Cyprus, Israel and Turkey.

Table 3.2 Illiteracy rates among young women are much higher in rural areas of developing regions

	% illiterate, women aged 15-24, 1980	
	Urban	Rural
Africa	45.9	75.7
Latin America and Caribbean	5.5	25.0
Asia and Pacific	22.4	43.2

Averages based on a limited number of countries in each region for census years around 1980.
Sources: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from UNESCO and Statistical Office data bases.

Table 3.3 Girls' secondary enrolment still lags behind boys' in much of Africa and Asia

	Girls enroled at second level per 100 boys, 1985
Developed regions	99
Africa	
Northern Africa	70
Sub-Saharan Africa	61
Latin America and Caribbean	112
Asia and Pacific	
Eastern Asia	91
South-eastern Asia	89
Southern Asia	40
Western Asia	75
Oceania	93

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from UNESCO, Statistical Yearbook (Paris, various years).

Table 3.4 In higher education more women are enrolled than men in many countries and areas (women per 100 men)

Developed regions
- Bulgaria (124)
- Canada (113)
- Germany:
  - former German Democratic Republic (114)
- Hungary (115)
- Iceland (113)
- Norway (113)
- Poland (127)
- Portugal (113)
- United States (110)

Africa
- Lesotho (172)

Latin America and Caribbean
- Argentina (113)
- Cuba (123)
- Dominica (200)
- Grenada (123)
- Jamaica (132)
- Nicaragua (122)
- Panama (136)
- Puerto Rico (153)
- St. Vincent/Grenadines (224)
- St. Kitts and Nevis (101)
- Suriname (116)
- Trinidad and Tobago (101)
- Uruguay (130)
- US Virgin Islands (259)

Asia and Pacific
- Bahrain (147)
- Brunei Darussalam (101)
- Kuwait (117)
- Mongolia (149)
- Oman (102)
- Philippines (119)
- Qatar (202)
- Tonga (129)
- United Arab Emirates (139)

Source: UNESCO.

IV. HEALTH AND CHILDBEARING

14. Almost everywhere, womenlive longer than men and die of different causes, the the trends in some causes of death, such as heart disease and cancer, are converging.

15. Throughout life, women's conerns for their health differ from men's, and they face different threats. Childbearing exposes women to a particular array of health risks and in many developing countries the complications from pregnancy and childbirth are a major (avoidable) cause of death for women.

16. Good health and family planning services are very im-portant for the well-being of women and their children -- giving them opportunities to whoose whether they will have children, when and how many. And reduced infant mortality means that women can reach their desired family size with fewer pregnancies.

17. With the growing availability of family planning and greater freedom in its use, childbearing rates have falledn considerably in recent decades, except in Africa. The increased availability is far from universal, however, and global trends mask high rates of childbearing and maternal deaths for some regions and countries.

Table 4.1 Women's life expectancy is increasing everywhere

	Women's life expectancy 1965/70	1985/90
Developed regions	73.5	77.7
Carribean	65.9	73.2
Latin America	60.9	69.3
Western Asia	57.2	67.3
Eastern and south-eastern Asia and Oceania	55.5	64.4
Northern Africa	50.0	61.4
Southern Asia	46.2	55.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	44.6	52.7

Source: Averages for each region calculated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from World Population Prospects 1988(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.7).

Table 4.2 Higher mortality rates among girls aged 2-5 years have been found in demographic and health surveys in a significant number of countries

Deaths per year per 1,000 population aged 2-5 years

	Girls	Boys
Pakistan	54.4	36.9
Haiti	61.2	47.8
Bangladesh	68.6	57.7
Thailand	26.8	17.3
Syria	14.6	9.3
Colombia	24.8	20.5
Costa Rica	8.1	4.8
Nepal	60.7	57.7
Dominican Republic	20.2	17.2
Philippines	21.9	19.1
Sri Lanka	18.7	16.3
Peru	30.8	28.8
Mexico	16.7	14.7
Panama	8.7	7.6
Turkey	19.5	18.4
Republic of Korea	12.7	11.8
Venezuela	8.4	7.6

Source: Compiled by UNICEF from national survey reports of the World Fertility Survey programme.

Table 4.3 Maternal mortality rates over 200 per 100,000 live births are still found in many countries or areas (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)

Africa
- Northern Africa
  - Egypt (318)
  - Morocco (300)
  - Sudan (660)
  - Tunisia (310)
- Sub-Saharan Africa
  - Botswana (200-300)
  - Burkina Faso (810)
  - Cameroon (300)
  - Central African Republic (600)
  - Chad (860)
  - Congo (1000)
  - Ghana (1000)
  - Madagascar (240)
  - Niger (420)
  - Nigeria (800)
  - Rwanda (210)
  - Senegal (600)
  - Sierra Leone (450)
  - Somalia (1100)
  - Uganda (300)
  - United Republic of Tanzania (340)
  - Zimbabwe (480)

Latin America and Caribbean
- Bolivia (480)
- Haiti (230)
- Paraguay (365)

Asia and Pacific
- Afghanistan (690)
- Bangladesh (600)
- Bhutan (1710)
- India (340)
- Indonesia (450)
- Nepal (830)
- Pakistan (400-600)
- Papua New Guinea (900)
- Syrian Arab Republic (280)
- Turkey (210)

Source: Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF and WHO.

Table 4.4 Inadequate nutrition is widespread among women in all regions and endemic in Africa and much of Asia

	% women aged 15-49 with anaemia, around 1980	
	Pregnant women	All women
Developed regions	14	11
Africa	63	44
Latin America and Caribbean	30	17
Eastern Asia a	20	18
Other Asia	65	58

Anaemia is defined according to WHO reference values for age, sex and pregnancy status.
Rates are estimated from various studies and refer to totals in each region, not country averages.
Source: WHO, World Health Statistics Quarterly, 38 (Geneva, 1985).

Table 4.5 Fertility rates have declined significantly in all regions except sub-Saharan Africa

	Total fertility rate	
	1965/70	1985/90
Developed regions	2.6	1.8
Africa		
Northern Africa	6.9	5.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	6.4	6.2
Latin America and Caribbean	5.5	3.6
Asia and Pacific		
Eastern Asia	5.2	3.0
South-eastern Asia	5.7	3.9
Southern Asia	6.3	5.4
Western Asia	6.5	5.3
Oceania	5.4	4.4

Source: Averages for each region calculated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from World Population Prospects 1988 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.7).

Table 4.6 Contraceptive use has increased in every region but is still far from common in much of Africa and Asia

	% married women using contraception	
	1960/65	1983
Developed regions	66	70
Africa	5	14
Latin America and Caribbean	14	56
Asia and Pacific		
Eastern Asia	13	74
Other Asia and Pacific	7	34

Rates are based on estimated totals in each region, not country averages.

Source: Levels and Trends of Contraceptive Use as Assessed in 1988, Population Studies No. 110 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XIII.4).

V. HOUSING, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

18. Women in developing regions face extra hardships and burdens unknown to women in developed regions, who can take for granted their access to safe water, sanitation and electricity.

19. In most developinq regions, women in rural areas live in serious deprivation. Urban women have better (though still very limited) access to housing, schools, transport, safe water, sanitation, fuel and eiectricity.

20. All countries in the developinq regions are experiencing rapid urban growth, but women in Latin America and the Caribbean have much better opportunities from urbanisation than their counterparts in Africa and Asla.

21. Environmental degradation, a product of economic forces directed mainly bv men, creates new problems for women. Especially in rural areas, pollution threatens their health and the health of thelr children, clean water is difficult to find and fuel for cooking and heating is scarce.

Table 5.1 The pace of urbanization everywhere is rapid

	% women urban 1970	1990
Developed regions	66	76
Africa		
Northern Africa	37	52
Sub-Saharan Africa	17	29
Latin America and Caribbean	59	73
Asia and Pacific		
Eastern Asia	23	33
South-eastern Asia	20	27
Southern Asia	19	26
Western Asia	42	60
Oceania	18	47

Based on total populations of women and women in urban areas in each region.
Source: Age and Sex Structure of Urban and Rural Populations, 1970-2000: The 1980 Assessment (United Nations publication, ESA/P/WP.81).

Table 5.2 Rural populations are still growing in Africa and Asia

	Annual growth rate of rural population (%), 1985-1990
Developed regions	-0.3
Africa	2.0
Latin America and Caribbean	-0.1
Asia and Pacific	1.4

Based on growth of total population of women in rural areas in each region.
Source: Prospects of World Urbanization 1988, Population Studies No. 112 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIII.8).

Table 5.3 Many more women than men migrate to urban areas in the developed regions and Latin America and the Caribbean

	Women per 100 men in net rural to urban migration, 1965/75
Developed regions	137
Africa	95
Latin America and Caribbean	132
Asia and Pacific	98

Source: Averages for each region calculated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from World Population Trends and Policies, 1987 Monitoring Report, Population Studies No. 103 (United Nations publication, Sales no. E.88.XIII.3).

Table 5.4 In developing regions, access to safe water, adequate sanitation and electricity is very limited in rural areas

	% population without safe water, 1980/85		% population without adequate sanitation facilities, 1980/85		% households without electricity, 1980 *	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Latin America & Caribbean	13	58	29	61	23	67
Africa	33	69	50	79	45	92
Asia and Pacific	22	49	29	62	32	83

* Averages based on a small number of countries or areas in each region.

Source: Compiled by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from Statistical Office and WHO data bases.

VI. WOMEN'S WORK AND THE ECONOMY

22. Both women and men work but many aspects of their work is different: total hours, the kind of work, rates of pay, ages of participation and domestic responsibilities, of which women generally have considerably more than men.

23. Since 1970 women's share in the labour force has been rising. And almost everywhere, women are working more outside the household.

24. Job segregation and wage discrimination persist almost everywhere, with a big gap between what women produce and what they earn. They also have less access to training and capital.

25. What women do is often unrecorded, undervalued or not valued at all, but statistical concepts and methods are being revised in order to better incorporate these omissions.

26. Women's concerns have largely been ignored in national accounts, international programmes to deal with economic crises and in investment in developing regions.

Table 6.1 Women in most regions spend as much or more time working than men when unpaid housework is taken into account

	Total working time (hours per week)	
	Women	Men
Developed regions		
Northern America and Australia (4)	49	50
Japan (4)	57	55
Western Europe (9)	49	44
Eastern Europe and USSR (10)	70	63
Africa (4)	67	54
Latin America and Caribbean (3)	60	55
Asia and Pacific (6)	62	49

Source: Data are averages from a small number of national studies in each region, 1976/88, compiled by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. Numbers in parentheses refer to the number of studies in each region.

Table 6.2 Since 1975, both women and men have spent less time in total work in most of the developed regions, and women have also spent less time in housework

Time spent in work (hours per week)

	1975 or earlier						1976 or later				
	Economic activity		Unpaid housework		Total working time		Economic activity		Unpaid housework		Total working
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Northern America and Australia	18	44	36	10	54	54	19	35	30	15	49
Japan	28	56	31	3	59	59	27	52	29	3	57
Western Europe	15	41	35	8	50	49	18	34	31	11	49
Eastern Europe and USSR	36	52	39	15	75	66	37	48	33	15	70

Source: Data are averages from a small number of national studies in each region compiled by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

Table 6.3 The proportion of men who are economically active is down everywhere but the gap between women's and men's economic participation remains wide

	Average % aged 15 and over economically active, 1990	
	Women	Men
Developed regions		
Northern America	50	77
Australia, Europe, Japan and New Zealand	45	75
USSR	60	75
Africa		
Northern Africa	16	80
Sub-Saharan Africa	47	87
Latin America and Caribbean	32	80
Asia and Pacific		
Eastern Asia	59	83
South-eastern Asia	48	85
Southern Asia	24	85
Western Asia	21	83
Oceania	40	86

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from International Labour Office, Economically Active Population - Estimates, 1950-1980, Projections, 1985-2025, six volumes (Geneva, 1986).

Table 6.4 Women make up a large part of the clerical, sales and services labour force but are largely excluded from manufacturing, transport and management

	% who are women, 1980s				
	Prof., tech.	Clerical & service	Sales	Mfg., transpt.	Adm., mgmt.
Developed regions	47	63	48	18	18
Africa	34	35	42	18	13
Latin America and Caribbean	49	58	47	17	20
Asia and Pacific	37	38	29	17	10

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from International Labour Office, Year Book of Labour Statistics (Geneva, various years).

Table 6.5 Women are always paid less than men

(women's average wages as percentage of men's, 1983/87)

Developed regions
- Iceland (90)
- France (89)
- Australia (87)
- Denmark (82)
- New Zealand (79)
- Netherlands (77)
- Belgium (74)
- Germany:
- Federal Rep. of Germany (73)
- United Kingdom (70)
- Czechoslovakia (68)
- Switzerland (67)
- Luxembourg (65)
- Japan (52)

Africa
- United Rep. Tanzania (92)
- Kenya (76)
- Swaziland (73)
- Egypt (64)

Asia and Pacific
- Jordan (79)
- Sri Lanka (75)
- Hong Kong (74)
- Singapore (69)
- Cyprus (59)
- Korea, Republic of (50)

Source: International Labour Office, Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1986 and 1988 (Geneva, 1986 and 1988).

Table 6.6 The percentage of the economically active who are wage earners is about equal for women and men in most regions, but is lower for women in Africa

	% economically active who are wage earners, 1985	
	Women	Men
Developed regions	77	78
Africa	30	42
Latin America and Caribbean	62	56
Asia and Pacific	57	58

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from International Labour Office, Year Book of Labour Statistics (Geneva, various years).

Table 6.7 Most women are still working in agriculture in much of Africa and Asia

	% economically active women in agriculture
Developed regions	14
Latin America and Caribbean	12
Africa	
Northern Africa	38
Sub-Saharan Africa	79
Asia and Pacific	
Southern Asia	62
Western Asia	28
Eastern and south-eastern Asia and Oceania	50

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from International Labour Office, Economically Active Population - Estimates, 1950-1980, Projections, 1985-2025, six volumes (Geneva, 1986).

The informal sector

27. In Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean, women's opportunities for wage employment in agriculture, industry and services during the 1970s and 1980s did not improve. Due to economic crises and the impact of stabilization and adjustment policies, women's wage employment remained negligible in Africa and actually fell in Latin America.

28. Excluded from wage employment, women have increasingly turned to work in the informal sector. In many countries the informal sector and own-account work are women's only wedges of opportunity in the face of occupational segregation, unemployment and underemployment. This is clear in Africa, where public and private wage employment are fairly well monopolised by men and women are confined to the economic dead-end of subsistence agriculture. The informal sector is often essential for the economic survival of women -- particularly poor women who work in petty trading or such home-based industries as beer brewing, soap making and tailoring. A study in Zambia shows for example that the importance of women's informal sector earnings to total family income increased dramatically in the 1980s.

29. Along with discrimination in wage and salary employment, many women face cultural norms that keep them close to the home and tied to home-based production. Regular employee working hours often conflict with household responsibilities, particularly child care. And women's lack of access to education and training further handicaps them in the labour market.

30. The informal sector is by no means a panacea for women. It is far less secure than formal sector work, and it generally pays less than the minimum wage. Low levels of investment technology, poor economies of scale, high unit prices for raw materials and limited access to large markets and marketing organizations inhibit productivity and returns. And although women usually bear the costs of setting up their informal activity, they often do not control the benefits -- which may be entirely taken by husbands, fathers or others.

31. Informal sector activity is even more difficult to measure than formal. An approximation is to look at the extent of self- employment. More than half the economically active women in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia and a third in northern Africa and the rest of Asia are self-employed. Looking only at non-agricultural production, recent United Nations estimates for six countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia show that the informal sector accounts for significant but widely varying shares of output - from 20 per cent in Malaysia and Venezuela to over 50 per cent in Indonesia (Table 6.-16). In services (outside transport, where women are almost completely excluded), women account for two-thirds of informal sector production in African countries such as the Congo and Zambia, where their role in trade is well-known. In the developed regions by contrast, the proportion of women who are self-employed averages only around 14 per cent.

32. Looking at women's participation rates in the informal sector in the various sectors of productive activity confirm the importance of informal economic activity for women.

33. Generally, the lower a sector's share in GDP, the higher the amount of informal activity in that sector and the greater the participation of women. In many African countries, for example, agriculture accounts for less than 25 per cent of GDP, and women make up most of the work force. Mining, by contrast, accounts for a big part of GDP in many and men make up most of the work force. Outside agriculture and mining, the informal sector contributes much -- in Indonesian industry, half -- to employment and production. Except in transport generally and industry in Africa, the informal sector provides significant opportunities for women in the six countries studied.

34. The characteristics of the informal sector most often cited include simple technology, very little capital, no fixed place of business, few or no employees, quasi-legality or lack of registration, little record-keeping and so on.

35. No definite distinction has been established in statistics between the formal and informal sectors and the ILO and United Nations concepts of labour force and

persons working on their own account without employees from other economically active persons including unpaid family workers. Therefore, for practical purposes in the short term this is the definition used by INSTRAW and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat in their statistical studies of women in the informal sector in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

36. Consistent with existing ILO and United Nations recommendations, all persons working in the informal sector by this definition are also considered as economically active.

Table 6.8 Self-employment is an important source of livelihood for women in developing regions

	% economically active women who are self-employed, 1985
Developed regions	14
Latin America and Caribbean	26
Africa	
Northern Africa	32
Sub-Saharan Africa	59
Asia and Pacific	
Southern Asia	51
Western Asia	29
Eastern and south-eastern Asia and Oceania	35

Source: Prepared by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat from International Labour Office, Year Book of Labour Statistics (Geneva, various years)

37. Economically active women are concentrated in low-productivity agricultural or services industries in developing regions. They are often forced to improvise their own economic opportunities with little resources or support in the informal sector.

38. Despite the limitations of national accounts and labour force statistics, they can provide a wealth of information on women in the economy. In 1988/89, INSTRAW and the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat undertook a series of case studies of women's economic activity and production in six countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. These studies examined the role of women and the distribution of economic production by major industry groups (agriculture, mining, other industry, transport, and other services), and the contribution of women and the informal sector in manufacturing and related industries, transport and other services.

39. The basic statistical findings are presented in the two tables below (Tables 6.8A and 6.8B).

40. The first shows the percentage distribution of gross domestic product and of women and men in the labour force (in most cases according to census statistics), among four industry groups, which total to 100 per cent. The second shows (a) the

distribution of gross domestic product and of women in the labour force in total production outside of agriculture and mining, (b) the estimated percentage of production in each industry group which is informal, and (c) the estimated percentage of informal production in each industry group which is produced by women.

41. The columns under "Total" refer to (a) the percentage of women in the labour force working outside of agriculture and mining activities, (b) the estimated percentage of total production outside of agriculture and mining which is informal, and (c) the estimated percentage of this informal production which is produced by women.

Table 6.9 A. Distribution of GDP and female and male labour force by type of economic activity

		Agriculture			Mining			Industry and transport			Services		
		% of GDP	% of labour force f	m	% of GDP	% of labour force f	m	% of GDP	% of labour force f	m	% of GDP	% of labour force f	m
Sub-Saharan Africa													
Congo	(1984)	7.3	72.9	35.7	45.8	0.3	2.2	21.9	3.2	28.3	25.1	23.3	33.7
Gambia	(1983)	33.3	85.5	63.5	-	-	-	17.9	1.1	11.5	48.1	13.4	25.0
Zambia	(1986)	14.0	72.7	57.4	21.0	0.2	4.1	35.5	4.3	15.2	29.5	22.8	23.5
Latin America													
Venezuela	(1983)	6.8	2.4	20.5	16.3	0.3	1.9	35.6	17.2	36.5	41.3	80.1	41.2
	(1987)	6.3	2.0	19.0	10.1	0.4	1.2	37.3	20.1	38.2	46.4	77.5	41.6
South-eastern Asia													
Indonesia	(1980)	24.8	53.8	57.0	25.7	0.4	0.9	22.1	12.8	16.5	27.5	33.1	25.6
	(1985)	23.7	53.6	55.3	16.3	0.3	0.9	26.5	12	18	33.6	34.1	25.8
Malaysia	(1986)	26.2	32.5	29.7	10.8	0.3	0.9	30.8	21.7	28.7	32.3	45.6	40.6

Note: The groups of economic activities shown are mutually exclusive and comprise all economic activities. Percentages of GDP, female labour force and male labour force thus total 100 for each country across the four groups.

B. Contribution of women in the informal sector to industry and services production

		Industry (exc. mining)			Transport			Services (exc. transport)			Total _u*_		
		% of fem. lab. force _u*	% of prod. informal	% of informal female	% of fem. lab. force _u*	% of prod. informal	% of informal female	% of fem. lab. force _u*	% of prod. informal	% of informal female	% of fem. lab. force _u**	% of prod. informal	% of informal female
Sub-Saharan Africa													
Congo	(1984)	10.3	44.0	9.9	2.0	13.4	1.3	87.9	41.9	60.4	26.8	37.9	39.3
Gambia	(1983)	5.6	45.0	10.9	2.0	18.0	2.2	92.2	36.4	30.6	14.5	35.8	25.0
Zambia	(1986)	15.0	41.3	41.4	0.9	6.8	10.8	84.1	48.4	64.7	17.3	41.7	53.3
Latin America													
Venezuela	(1983)	15.4	21.3	25.3	2.3	44.8	1.4	82.3	26.4	27.4	97.3	27.0	20.5
	(1987)	18.7	13.6	37.6	1.8	43.6	1.6	79.4	20.0	36.7	97.6	20.2	29.2
South-eastern Asia													
Indonesia	(1980)	27.4	44.1	45.4	0.3	44.6	0.8	71.6	59.1	46.8	45.8	52.5	43.0
Malaysia	(1986)	30.6	13.1	53.7	1.6	20.5	2.8	67.7	22.7	42.6	67.2	18.6	43.2

_u*_ Excluding agriculture and mining.

_u**_ Female labour force in industry, transport and services as per cent of total female labour force in all branches of the economy.

Source: "Compendium of statistics on women in the informal sector" (United Nations publication in preparation), INSTRAW and Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat.

VI.18 Most women live in countries with per capita GDP of less than $1000 per year.

Per capita GDP in 1987	% of world population
High (more than $10,000)	14
Middle ($3,000 to 10,000)	3
Low ($1,000 to 3,000)	13
Very low (less than $1,000)	62
GDP not available a	8
Total	100

In the 1980s, per capita GDP was increasing less than $10 per year
(or declining) in countries with 75 per cent of the world's women

Per capita GDP in 1987	Average annual change in GDP per capita (US$, 1980-1886) b
High (more than $10,000)	323
Middle ($3,000 to 10,000)	91
Low ($1,000 to 3,000)	9
Very low (less than $1,000)	-4

Source: Calculated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat based on data from United Nations population and national accounts statistics data bases.

a Eastern Europe and USSR.

b Excludes countries with high per capita oil income, which largely experienced declining GDP in the period due to declining oil prices, and eastern Europe and USSR, for which official GDP data are not available.